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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03

DRC-01 IGA-02 /159 W
---------- 127301
R 301349Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4339
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
USINT DAMASCUS UNN
AMCONSUL ADANA UNN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL UNN
AMCONSUL IZMIR UNN

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: PBOR, EGEN, TU, IZ, SY
SUBJECT: TURKISH POSITION ON EUPHRATES WATER FLOW
TO SYRIA AND IRAQ

REF: ANKARA 3796 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FON MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS DESCRIBED RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TURKEY, SYRIA AND IRAQ OVER SHARING EUPHRATES WATER DURING FILLING OF KEBAN DAM RESERVOIR. DISCUSSIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON SYRIAN AND IRAQI REQUEST FOR MORE WATER. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON ERDOGAN AYTUN, SECTION CHIEF, DEPARTMENT OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA ON MAY 30 TO DISCUSS RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT SYRIA AND IRAQ UNHAPPY OVER VOLUME OF WATER TURKEY IS RELEASING DOWNSTREAM ON EUPHRATES RIVER AS IT FILLS RESERVOIR BEHIND RECENTLY COMPLETED
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KEBAN DAM. AYTUN SUMMARIZED DEVELOPMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

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A. ALL THREE COUNTRIES HAVE CONSTRUCTED DAMS ON EUPHRATES AND WOULD LIKE MAXIMUM FLOW OF WATER TO FILL RESPECTIVE RESERVOIRS: TURKEY AT KEBAN; SYRIA AT TAPKA (ASSAD); AND IRAQ AT HABABNIYE.

B. SYRIAN DEPPRIMIN AND FONMIN VISITED TURKEY APRIL 23-24 WITH MESSAGE FROM SYRIAN PRESIDENT ON EUPHRATES WATER QUESTION, RESULT OF WHICH WAS MAY 2-17 TRIPARTITE MEETING IN ANKARA TO DISCUSS SHARING OF WATER. SECGEN OF IRAQI FONMINISTRY CAME TO ANKARA MAY 13-15 WITH MESSAGE FROM IRAQI PRESIDENT ON SAME SUBJECT.

C. TURKEY DURING TRIPARTITE MEETING WANTED TO DISCUSS AGREEMENT COVERING ALL RIVERS FLOWING BETWEEN TURKEY AND SYRIA/IRAQ, BUT SYRIAN AND IRAQI DELEGATIONS STATED THEY WERE EMPOWERED ONLY TO TALK ABOUT EUPHRATES.

D. TURKEY OFFERED DURING MEETING TO INCREASE DOWN-STREAM FLOW ON EUPHRATES FROM 100 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND TO 175 FOR MAY AND JUNE. THE FLOW WOULD BE INCREASED TO 340 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND IN JULY.

E. SYRIA AND IRAQ HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL, AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THREE COUNTRIES ARE CONTINUING.

2. AYTUN CONCLUDED THAT TURKEY NEEDS URGENTLY TO FILL KEBAN RESERVOIR TO BEGIN HYDROELECTRIC GENERATION, BOTH BECAUSE OF TURKEY'S EXPANDING ELECTRICITY NEEDS AND BECAUSE OF INCREASED COST OF OIL FOR THERMOELECTRIC GENERATION.

3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN AIDAC SEPTEL, TURK AUTHORITIES AT KEBAN IN FACT RELEASING ONLY 80-100 CUBIC METERS OF WATER PER SECOND, WHILE SUPPLEMENT TO AID LOAN AGREEMENT WITH GOT CALLS FOR RELEASE OF 275 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND DURING CURRENT SEASON. AID WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION.
SPAIN

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